COLD
WAR
KIDS

AGAiNST PRiVACY

we don't gamble we don't do the stock exchange we paint paintings we write scenes for the stage we will talk about welfare we will talk about sex talk about the pope in prada shoes nobody gets upset we're waiting for your call we're against privacy forget ex-girlfriends we want little governments we tell stories we want to get you to join in call us optimistic we get the meanest looks we are bar stool romantics history books will show we're sure that you'll agree

MEXICAN DOGS

lock all exit doors 'now I wanna be your dog' tape winding up high tide rattling off say goodbye to the friends you brought run with us where I walk now, when I talk flashlights go out stars will light the way like mexican dogs nobody gave us names tires burn in the dark marys beads and the burning heart falling apart high tide kicking sand we don't race to win to taste the salt coca cola costs a quarter on my block we will chase the bright lights till we're done when I taste the salt mexican dogs

EVERY VALLEY iS NOT A LAKE

don't bother grandma cause she's right or you'll be in some mess I see how you see her creaky bones, bitchin' bout irs take a look child through these photo albums she sang to sailors in the war, baseball stadiums in 1948 so now you graduate and you think, you're gonna move out now I will congratulate you as soon as you pay your own way don't mean to stick a pin in your shiny new balloon your alimony check won't buy a bigger room or a new car don't even think about coming round here with that junior from up the street sneakers squeaking on the kitchen tile hat pulled below his eyes that boy is trouble in his sleep you've got your father's reckless charm babe long as you're givin', somebody take well every sermon is not the gospel, babe let me put it another way, every valley is not a lake before I let you go with your friends, got one more thing to say you think my love is tough, should've seen your grandma in her day use your wits child cause nothing stays the same in 40 years my song will be public domain sharp tongue, quick switch will make my own apology felt

SOMETHiNG iS NOT RiGHT WiTH ME

something is not right with me how was I supposed to know? something is not right with me trying not to let it show I tried to call you collect you said you would not accept your friends are laughing cause nobody uses pay phones gave me quarters to select song on the jukebox that gets people dancing should've never chosen girlfren passions of the people were sleeping late into the evening reach behind they could hardly find their spines you said you like old cars I bought a beat up brown dodge it was smoking black and died in your front yard you follow whose dating who but but when it comes to you one is pulled a dozen different ways in the mind

WELCOME TO THE OCCUPATiON

whistle blowers gotta get outta school they don't want poets they want pigeons on a stool you're examining fossils defending criminals I'm clock watching getting dumb photographing models a house painters solace I'm like sisyphus in the sun I give up raising your kids america you treat 'em like an obligation welcome to the occupation devils in the details he's got your gold watch and chain whistle blowers we know how you feel public servants surrender their free will but you can't be in politics and work in the circus you have to choose just one you hold the nail I'll swing the hammer that's how things get done goodbye valedictorians goodbye punks

GOLDEN GATE JUMPERS

thick fog rolls in waves on the golden gate I was checking my watch with 7 minutes in my shift when I spot a black skirt on the rail straddling the bar like it's a quarter a ride she's scared to jump, but terrified to stay walk to her slow extend my hand with a smile and say 'ma'am how was your day? keep your eyes on my face! I want to help you if you'll let me' she's startled, I look forward wrap my arms round her legs pull her down to the sidewalk we're both heaving for air and I say most folks think they'll hit the surface and never feel no pain water pulls you under back to the womb once again bodies float to the shore bloated purple and blue if sharks don't get you first, crabs will have their way with you

AVALANCHE iN B /

avalanche in apartment B everywhere whites what I see I've never lived alone so near the ocean breeze I can finally afford high anxiety reach up, cold air hits your hands snow packs like cement you can stand remain calm while rescue makes plans the earth must contract and expand avalanche in apartment B all at once the weight dropped on me sweating at the bar 15 minutes ago we were yelling our heads off now I'm surrounded by snow

i'VE SEEN ENOUGH

how's it gonna feel when summer ends? out of money, out of friends I've seen enough of nothing news the blackest stain on history or last laugh blues not gonna fight not gonna cry not gonna shop around for one flag to fly I've seen enough inventors age I've covered up my face browbeaten shame I've got the itch I feel the sting like falling in to the deepest sleep and telephone rings I've seen enough the angry mob yelling in unison da da da they can't be stopped sitting at home making plans don't want to be another silly set of accident hands

EVERY MAN i FALL FOR

every man I fall for drinks his coffee black love and hate are tattooed on his knuckles and my name is on his back every man I fall for works the graveyard shift he kisses me softly to wake me up and then takes my place in bed and I fall I leave with one concern it's the law of diminishing returns every man I fall for keeps his anger on a string and holds it tight when other men walk by blinking their eyes at me he always pick a fight I go walk alone down ocean blvd. peak in your windows tired housewives nagging at their husbands but is this the life you chose?

DREAMS OLD MEN DREAM

thought I was laying in the gutter in milk cartons and bones but I was standing on a mountain top looking over your homes thought I was laying in my garden with my hands deep in soil but I was there on an island shooting flares at your boat thought I was soothing like a violin confessing new rain but I was piping like a trumpet frantic for fame thought I was built like a buildings built iron concrete and stone I realize I'm just a hack actor finished playing my role you're reading my thoughts dreams old men dream its just like when we were kids we'd lay around wondering we try to listen to what they say thought I was writing for a hundred hours looking straight in to me but I was reading on the newspaper obituaries thought I was nervous like a mailman reading your letters dear but I was at our anniversary toasting thirty years push my piano outside I don't care beneath the meteor black sky I don't care the neighbors will complain let them stare who knows where the time goes I don't care what would you think of me if I told you I haven't slept in weeks I've been up chasing my childhood with a pen these are dreams old men dream

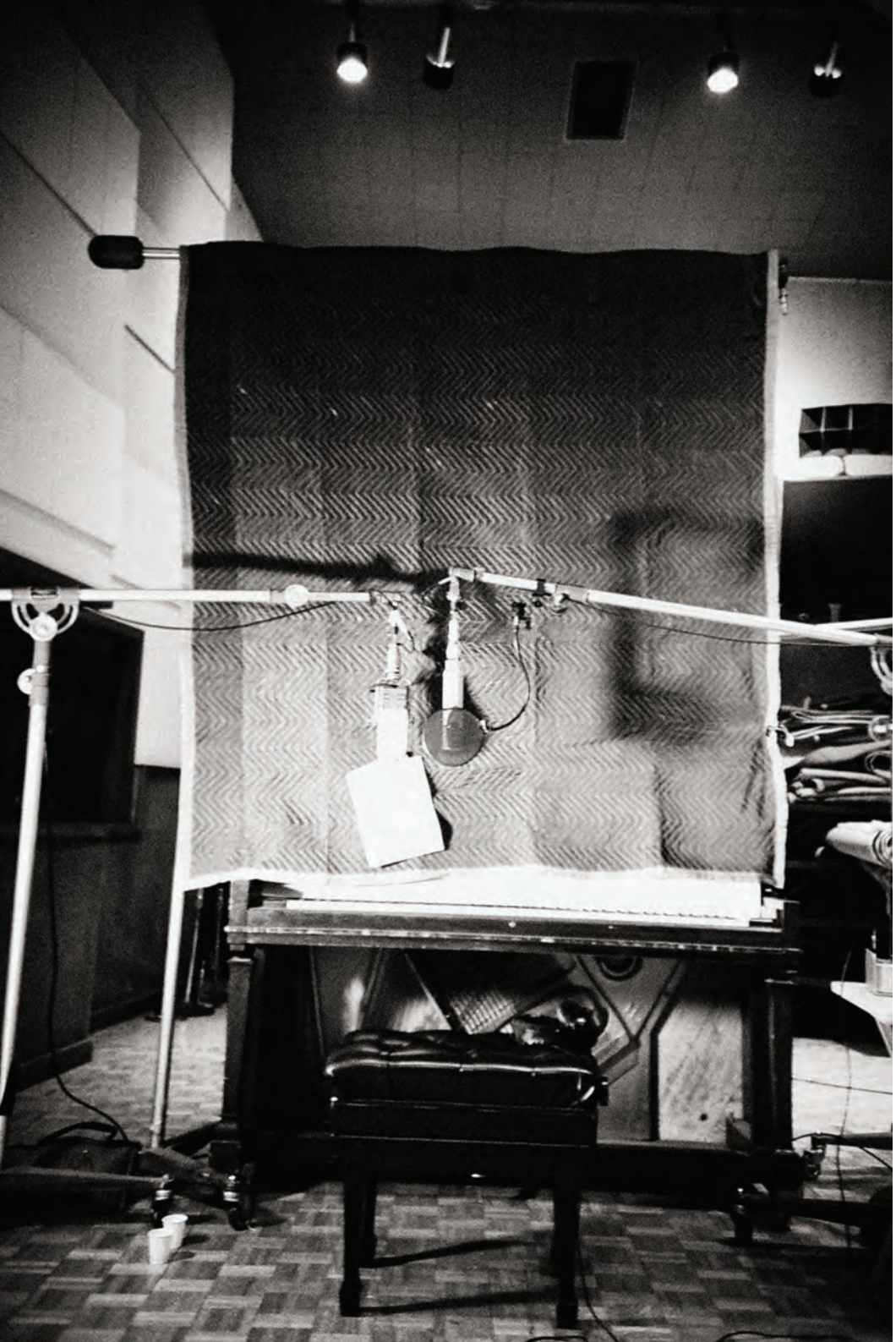
ON THE NiGHT MY LOVE BROKE THROUGH

on the night that my love broke through revelations that came unglued cell doors were opened guards stepped out the way prisoners got one acre of land and one years pay flowers long since dead stiffened at the neck colors came back in green and yellow and in red unemployed cowboys staggered on fairfax trucks pulled up and fifteen men hollered and hopped in back a copy of bukowski at the bottom of the stack got picked up by some dropout who read it front to back shoving off the dead hand of the past ants were crawling out of grimy bathtub drains janitor was laughing he has finally gone insane city buses were swerving arriving right on time vending machines were selling glasses of white wine by the dime street lights got a burst of electricity sparks danced across windshields like a grand finale metal detectors beeping sound was deafening everywhere bearded men dug up wedding rings we all stopped to listen to him sing!

RELIEF

flashflood you got too comfortable so I showed you whose really in control you gave all of your savings to the poor lightning on the river and you're shivering with your fishing pole same night you bought a ring and you proposed you never really know what you can't really see I'll be fair you made it out alive, oh what a relief I'll be fair

earthquakes in your pajamas huddled in doorways while your houses sway blue blood pumping like a hunters fist I love the shape your faces make 'OH my, thankyou for keeping me safe' even though you know, it don't always go that way go ahead everything will be explained your wild guess everything will be explained



CRYPTOMNESiA

I sold you for parts you'll get what you want then I'll want it too I know who you are don't know who you're not I don't dare ask come back we'll use the stove we'll make plans in the back of your pickup truck oh why no one told she crowns my lips and waits up helicopter sails watching birds eye thats when I dropped and all my hands were behaving like maps expired these rocks have been kicked my body is spent can't stop and rest oh no your comfort plus ease I see it in 3D you can't dream so slow don't check the index for reference curse the sky 'lord give me hints' I searched the place for your prints I feel your cryptomnesia

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